

SCOTT M. BARBARA, WSBA# 20885
JOHNSON CHRISTIE ANDREWS & SKINNER, P.S.
200 West Thomas, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98119
(206) 223-9248
(206) 623-9050 fax

FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

SEP 10 2003

JAMES R. LARSEN, CLERK
DEPUTY
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SPOKANE

GENE CAMARATA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF ELLENSBURG, SCOTT
WILLIS, NELSON NG, ANNE
KIRKPATRICK, KITTITAS
COUNTY, GENE DANA, TRACY
WILSON, AARON LANGVIN, JEFF
BEATON, JOHN KRAHENBUHL,
ERIC NYLANDER, JEFF ST. JOHN,
BETH SMITH,

Defendants.

CY - 03 - 3115 - LRS

NO.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

NOTICE OF REMOVAL - 1

JOHNSON CHRISTIE ANDREWS & SKINNER, P.S.
200 WEST THOMAS, SUITE 500, SEATTLE, WA 98119
PHONE: 206-223-9248/ FAX: 206-623-9050

ORIGINAL

1 TO: The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington at
2 Spokane

3 Defendants CITY OF ELLENSBURG, SCOTT WILLIS, NELSON NG and
4 ANNE KIRKPATRICK, by and through counsel, hereby give notice that they are
5 removing this case to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of
6 Washington on the grounds set forth below:

7 1. On August 11, 2003 plaintiff served a Summons and Complaint on the
8 Office of the City Clerk, the City of Ellensburg's designated agent for service of
9 process. The Superior Court of Washington for Kittitas County is referenced on the
10 Summons and Complaint; however, the copies served upon the City do not reflect a
11 cause number. On or about August 27, 2003 counsel undersigned mailed
12 correspondence to the plaintiff with a Notice of Appearance and a request that
13 plaintiff either identify the cause number of the case or file the Summons and
14 Complaint. A review of the files of the Kittitas County Superior Court suggests the
15 plaintiff has filed this action twice: once on June 3, 2003 under cause number 03-2-
16 00330-4 and again on August 4, 2003 under cause number 03-2-00471-8. The City
17 does not know under which, if either, cause number plaintiff purports to have served
18 them. Plaintiff has made no response to counsel undersigned's letter of August 27th.
19
20
21
22

1 2. This Notice is being filed within 30 days of initial receipt of plaintiff's
2 Summons and Complaint.

3 3. This is a civil action alleging deprivation of plaintiff's constitutional
4 rights under the color of state law. The Complaint does not contain a prayer for a
5 specific dollar amount; however, on information and believe, based upon plaintiff's
6 administrative claim, the removing defendants believe plaintiff claims at least
7 \$500,000.
8

9 4. 28 U.S.C. § 144(b) provides in part as follows:

10 Any civil action of which the district courts have original
11 jurisdiction founded on a claim or right arising under the
12 Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States shall be
13 removable without regard to the citizenship or residence of
the parties.

14 5. Plaintiff alleges in his Complaint, "The actions of all Defendants
15 described above were done under color of state law and violated state law and civil
16 rights of the Plaintiff that were protected under federal law, as provided in 42 U.S.C.
17 §1983." (Complaint, para. 13). This Court has original jurisdiction over this action
18 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1441. Removal is proper to the Eastern District of
19 Washington at Spokane because the district and division embrace Kittitas County,
20
21
22

1 which is where the defendants are located and where the events giving rise to this suit
2 occurred.

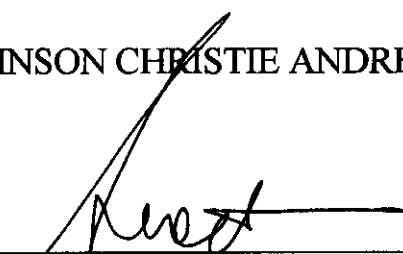
3 6. True and correct copies of the Summons and Complaint received are
4 attached hereto as Exhibit A and B, respectively. Exhibit C is true and correct copies
5 of the Notice of Appearance for counsel for the Ellensburg defendants and the letter
6 sending same to plaintiff.
7

8 WHEREFORE, defendants CITY OF ELLENSBURG, SCOTT WILLIS,
9 NELSON NG and ANNE KIRKPATRICK give notice that the court action
10 pending against them in Kittitas County Superior Court has been removed from
11 that court to the United States Court for the Eastern District at Spokane.
12

13 DATED this 9th day of September, 2003.

14 JOHNSON CHRISTIE ANDREWS & SKINNER, P.S.

15
16 By


17 SCOTT M. BARBARA, WSBA# 20885
18 Attorneys for Defendants City of Ellensburg, Scott
19 Willis, Nelson Ng and Anne Kirkpatrick
20
21
22


Consent to Removal

Defendants KITTITAS COUNTY, GENE DANA, TRACY WILSON, AARON LANGVIN, JEFF BEATON, JOHN KRAHENBUHL, ERIC NYLANDER, JEFF ST. JOHN and BETTI SMITH hereby consent and join in the removal of the above-referenced matter from the Superior Court of the State of Washington in and for Kittitas County to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington at Spokane.

SIGNED THIS 7 day of September, 2003.

KEEFE, KING & BOWMAN, P.S.

By


CHRISTOPHER J. KERLEY, WSBA# 16489
Attorneys for Defendants Kittitas County, Gene Dana, Tracy Wilson, Aaron Langvin, Jeff Beaton, John Krahenbuhl, Eric Nylander, Jeff St. John and Betti Smith

NOTICE OF REMOVAL - 5

JOHNSON CHRISTIE ANDREWS & SKINNER, P.S.
200 WEST THOMAS, SUITE 500, SEATTLE, WA 98119
PHONE: 206-223-9248/ FAX: 206-623-9050

EXHIBIT A

1 entered against you without notice. A default judgment is one where
2 the plaintiff is entitled to what they ask for because you have not
3 responded. If you serve a notice of appearance on the undersigned
4 person, you are entitled to notice before a default judgment may be
5 entered.

6 You may demand that the plaintiff file this lawsuit with the
7 court. If you do so, the demand must be in writing and must be
8 served upon the person signing this summons. Within 14 days after
9 you serve the demand, the plaintiff must file this lawsuit with the
10 court, or the service on you of this summons and complaint will be
11 void.

12 If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter,
13 you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may
14 be served on time.

15 This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of the Superior Court
16 Civil Rules of the State of Washington.

17
18
19 Dated: June 3, 2003 Signed:
20 Gene Camarata GENE CAMARATA
21 Plaintiff

22 FILE THE ORIGINAL WITH
23 THE CLERK OF COURT AT:

24 Kittitas County Superior Court
25 205 West Fifth, Room 207
26 Ellensburg, Washington 98926
27 Tel: (509) 962-7531
28

SERVE A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER
ON PLAINTIFF AT:

Gene Camarata.
1001 E. 8th Avenue, #4
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 982-6881

EXHIBIT B

RECEIVED

AUG 11 2003

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
ELLENSBURG, WA

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KITTITAS COUNTY

GENE CAMARATA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF ELLENSBURG, SCOTT WILLIS,
NELSON NG, ANNE KIRKPATRICK,
KITTITAS COUNTY, GENE DANA,
TRACY WILSON, AARON LANGVIN,
JEFF BEATON, JOHN KRAHENBUHL,
ERIC NYLANDER, JEFF ST. JOHN,
BETH SMITH,

Defendants.

NO. _____

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

Parties

1. Plaintiff Gene Camarata has resided in Kittitas County, Washington at all relevant times herein.

2. Defendants Scott Willis and Nelson Ng are Officers of the Ellensburg Police Department and residents of Kittitas County, Washington.

3. Defendant Anne Kirkpatrick was the Chief of the Ellensburg Police Department when the cause of action accrued.

4. Defendants Tracy Wilson, Aaron Langvin, Jeff Beaton, John Krahenbual, Eric Nylander, Jeff St. John and Beth Smith had been employed with the Kittitas County jail and residents of Kittitas County, Washington at all relevant times herein.

5. Defendant Gene Dana was Sheriff of Kittitas County and resident of Kittitas County, Washington at all relevant times herein.

1
2 6. Defendants City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County are
3 municipal corporations chartered by the State of Washington.
4

5 Jurisdiction and Venue

6 7. This court has proper jurisdiction and venue, since this
7 suit concerns acts of public officers and employees, of which were
8 occurred in this county, and of whom are resident of this county, is
9 against municipal corporations domiciled in this county, with
10 Plaintiff being a resident of this county.

11 8. Plaintiff has complied with the provisions of Chapters 4.96
12 in addition to this complaint for federal claims, and will re-file
13 complaint after 60 days for state tort claims.

14 Background Facts

15 9. Plaintiff's claim for damages arises out of actions taken
16 by police officers of the City of Ellensburg on Kittitas County on
17 June 3, 2000 and subsequent actions.

18 10. On June 3, 2000 Plaintiff called KITTCOM dispatch at least
19 a couple of times with respect to the first Longhorn Saturday Nite
20 Rodeo incidents at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds including the very
21 loud intolerable PA system in the arena which was pointing at
22 Plaintiffs home a couple of hundred feet away. The PA system could be
23 heard over eight blocks away; even a city editor for the Ellensburg
24 Daily Record newspaper, who lives a few blocks from the fairgrounds
25 and has hearing deficiencies and wears two hearing aids, called
26 KITTCOM because of the loudness of the fairgrounds PA system.
27 Officers Scott Willis and Nelson Ng responded and harassed Plaintiff.
28

1 When Officer Willis first viewed and contacted Plaintiff, Plaintiff
2 was at the far north side of 8th Avenue, a street adjacent to and
3 running between fairgrounds and Plaintiff's home. At around 7:00
4 P.M., Officer Willis very tightly handcuffed, unlawfully arrested and
5 searched Plaintiff and transported him to the Kittitas County Jail.
6 At the jail when Plaintiff asked Willis about posting bail Willis
7 indicated he wasn't getting out. Kittitas County Jail staff refused
8 to let Plaintiff use the telephone, even after several requests by
9 Plaintiff, until being allowed to post bail and be released which was
10 after 1:00 A.M. June 4, 2003, and when the rodeo and associated beer
11 garden event was over. Plaintiff made several requests to have
12 pictures taken of handcuff mark bruises. During release Jail employee
13 Eric Nylander indicated he would take pictures then changed his mind.
14 Jail Employee Beth Smith (#37) was aggressive to Plaintiff and argued
15 about what color of underwear he was wearing. Plaintiff went to
16 Kittitas Valley Memorial Hospital to have handcuff bruises checked
17 out and pictures were taken. At trial, a charge of disorderly conduct
18 (ECC 7.04.12) was changed into four charges. The charge of an act
19 alleged to be committed in the presence of Officers Willis and NG was
20 dismissed.

21 Causes of Action

22 11. Officer Willis, while Officer Ng was present, falsely
23 arrested Plaintiff, and falsely imprisoned Plaintiff, without
24 probable cause, required warrant in violation of RCW 10.31.100 and
25 Article I Section 7 of the Washington State Constitution, or other
26 legal authority, Plaintiff was unlawfully searched and trespassed
27 upon the Plaintiff's person, maliciously instituted criminal
28

1 prosecution without probable cause against Plaintiff, negligent,
2 excessive force, and assault and battery. Chief Kirkpatrick directly
3 participated in the second case through his supervision, or lack
4 thereof, and approval of these actions, and Kirkpatrick and the
5 Ellensburg failed to train officers.

6 12. Various Kittitas County Jail staff continued with the false
7 imprisonment of Plaintiff by not letting him post bail or use the
8 telephone or allow medical treatment. Sheriff Dana directly
9 participated in the second case through his supervision, or lack
10 thereof, and approval of these actions, and Kirkpatrick and the
11 Ellensburg failed to train officers.

12 13. The actions of all the Defendants described above were done
13 under color of state law and violated state law and civil rights of
14 Plaintiff that were protected under federal law, as provided in 42
15 U.S.C. § 1983. These federally protected civil rights included the
16 Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, protecting against
17 warrantless arrests and unreasonable searches and seizures, and also
18 excessive force; conspiracy; and rights under First Amendment to the
19 U.S. and State Constitutions; and the Fourteenth Amendment to the
20 U.S. Constitution, which makes the Bill of Rights applicable to the
21 States, and prevents State from depriving persons of life, liberty or
22 property without due process of law, which protections include rights
23 of an individual to be free from false arrest, false imprisonment,
24 malicious prosecution. The actions of Officer Willis, Ng and Chief
25 Kirkpatrick in wrongly arresting and imprisoning, and maliciously
26 prosecuting Plaintiff were taken as a result of and in retaliation of
27 Plaintiff exercising his rights of free speech and to petition for
28

1 redress of grievances, both in asserting his legal rights of
2 complaining about fairgrounds problems (especially PA system), and in
3 requesting government investigation of legitimate concerns of
4 fairgrounds problems. Plaintiff was guaranteed these rights under
5 First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving additional basis for
6 violating of civil rights under color of state law pursuant to 42
7 U.S.C. § 1983.

8 14. The actions of all the Defendants described above give rise
9 to tort cause of action for violation of these same provisions of the
10 U.S. Constitution, which could be brought even without the additional
11 protections against such conduct furnished by 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

12 15. In addition to violating the described provisions of the
13 U.S. Constitution, the actions of all the Defendants described above
14 also give rise to tort cause of action for violation of the
15 equivalent provisions of the Washington Constitution, which include
16 Article I, Section 3 (no deprivation of life, liberty or property
17 without due process of law); Article I, Section 4 (right to petition
18 for the redress of grievances); Article I, Section 5 (freedom of
19 speech); Article I, Section 7 (no unreasonable searches or seizures);
20 Article I, Section 14 (right to bail); and Article I, Section 22
21 (right to be present and have counsel at all stages of a criminal
22 prosecution).

23 Governmental Liability

24 16. Chapter 4.96 RCW makes Kittitas County and the City of
25 Ellensburg liable as respondeat superior for the actions of their
26 officers and employees.

1 17. The State of Washington, Kittitas County and the City
2 of Ellensburg are also liable for the negligent supervision and
3 training of their employees, which contributed to the above described
4 torts.

5 18. Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the City of Ellensburg is liable
6 for the actions of Chief Kirkpatrick, who was one of its policy-
7 making officials, and for the actions of Officer Willis and Ng while
8 being directly supervised and approved by Chief Kirkpatrick, and for
9 falsely arresting, imprisoning and maliciously prosecuting Plaintiff,
10 and using excessive force as a result of city policy matters.

11 19. Under Chapters 4.96 RCW, Kittitas County, and the City of
12 Ellensburg assume liability for the actions of their officers and
13 employees under respondeat superior.

14 Damages

15 20. As a result of these actions, Plaintiff has suffered
16 injury to his standing in the community, injury to employment and
17 business relations, injury to his ability to defend himself in
18 criminal litigation, severe mental anguish and emotional distress,
19 false imprisonment, loss of liberty, physical injury during the
20 arrests, health care expenses, loss of time, energy, wages and
21 money, involuntary observation, and related damages.

22 21. The violation of federally protected civil rights by the
23 Defendants was also done intentionally, recklessly, or with gross
24 negligence and maliciously in disregard of his rights, entitling
25 Plaintiff to punitive and exemplary damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

26 22. Plaintiff is entitled to reasonable attorney fees for
27 civil rights violations pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 & 1988.

Prayer for Relief

Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

(a) Actual damages, including general and special damages, in amount determined by trial or further proceedings in this matter.

(b) Punitive and exemplary damages pursuant to 42 USC 1983 in amount determined by trial or further proceedings in this matter.

(c) Reasonable attorney fees and costs of litigation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 1988.

(d) All taxable and statutory costs of this proceeding.

(e) For all other general and equitable relief.

Respectfully submitted this 3th day of June, 2003.



GENE CAMARATA, PLAINTIFF
1001 E. 8th Avenue, #4
Ellensburg, WA 98926

EXHIBIT C



Johnson Christie Andrews & Skinner, P.S.
Attorneys at Law

SCOTT M. BARBARA

August 27, 2003

Mr. Gene Camarata
1001 E. 8th Avenue, #4
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: *Camarata v. City of Ellensburg, Scott Willis, Nelson Ng, Anne Kirkpatrick, Kittitas County, Gene Dana, Tracy Wilson, Aaron Langvin, Jeff Beaton, John Krahenbuhl, Eric Nylander, Jeff St John and Beth Smith*

Dear Mr. Camarata:

Enclosed herewith please find our Notice of Appearance on behalf of the City of Ellensburg, Officers Willis and Ng, and former Chief of Police Kirkpatrick. The Summons and Complaint you served on the City did not indicate a cause number. If you have filed this action, please advise us of the cause number so that we may file it with the Court. If you have not yet filed this action, pursuant to CR 3(a) we hereby demand that you pay the filing fee and file the Summons and Complaint within 14 days.

We await your soonest response.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott M. Barbara", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott M. Barbara

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Jim Pidduck
Mr. Randy Lumsden

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR KITTITAS COUNTY

GENE CAMARATA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF ELLENSBURG, SCOTT WILLIS,
NELSON NG, ANNE KIRKPATRICK,
KITTITAS COUNTY, GENE DANA,
TRACY WILSON, AARON LANGVIN, JEFF
BEATON, JOHN KRAHENBUHL, ERIC
NYLANDER, JEFF ST. JOHN, BETH
SMITH,

Defendants.

NO.

NOTICE OF APPEARANCE

TO: Plaintiff Above Named, *Pro Se*

YOU AND EACH OF YOU will please take NOTICE that the defendants, City of
Ellensburg, Scott Willis, Nelson Ng and Anne Kirkpatrick, hereby appear in the above-entitled

NOTICE OF APPEARANCE - 1

JOHNSON CHRISTIE ANDREWS & SKINNER, P.S.
200 WEST THOMAS, SUITE 500, SEATTLE, WA 98119
PHONE: 206-223-9248/ FAX: 206-623-9050

ORIGINAL

1 action and requests that all further papers and pleadings, except original process, be served upon the
2 undersigned attorneys at the address below stated.

3 DATED this 27th day of August, 2003.

4 JOHNSON CHRISTIE ANDREWS & SKINNER, P.S.

5
6 By 

7 SCOTT M. BARBARA, WSBA# 20885

8 Attorneys for Defendants City of Ellensburg, Willis, Ng
9 and Kirkpatrick
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1 SCOTT M. BARBARA, WSBA# 20885
JOHNSON CHRISTIE ANDREWS & SKINNER, P.S.
2 200 West Thomas, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98119
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FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

SEP 10 2003

JAMES R. LARSEN, CLERK
DEPUTY
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SPOKANE

GENE CAMARATA,

CY - 03 - 3115 - LRS
NO.

Plaintiff,

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

v.

CITY OF ELLENSBURG, SCOTT
WILLIS, NELSON NG, ANNE
KIRKPATRICK, KITTITAS
COUNTY, GENE DANA, TRACY
WILSON, AARON LANGVIN, JEFF
BEATON, JOHN KRAHENBUHL,
ERIC NYLANDER, JEFF ST. JOHN,
BETH SMITH,

Defendants.

DECLARATION OF SERVICE - 1

JOHNSON CHRISTIE ANDREWS & SKINNER, P.S.
200 WEST THOMAS, SUITE 500, SEATTLE, WA 98119
PHONE: 206-223-9248/ FAX: 206-623-9050

ORIGINAL

1 I, MAUREEN E. PATTSNER, hereby declare:

2 1. That I am a citizen of the United States and of the State of Washington,
3 living and residing in King County, in said State; that I am over the age of eighteen
4 years, not a party to the above-entitled action, and competent to be a witness therein;
5

6 2. That on the 9th day of September, 2003, I caused a copy of NOTICE OF
7 REMOVAL to be delivered via Federal Express to the following:

8 Gene A. Camarata
9 1001 East 8th Street, Apartment #4
10 Ellensburg, WA 98926
11 Plaintiff Pro Se

12 Christopher J. Kerley
13 KEEFE, KING & BOWMAN, P.S.
14 1102 Washington Mutual Financial Center
601 West Main Ave
Spokane, WA 99201-0625
Attorney for Kittitas County Defendants

15 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

16 DATED at Seattle, Washington this 9th day of September, 2003.

17 
18 _____
19 MAUREEN E. PATTSNER
20
21
22